

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/FR2004/050475

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
C12Q1/68

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, Sequence Search, WPI Data, PAJ, MEDLINE, BIOSIS, EMBASE, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	YAMANAKA Y ET AL.: "Maturational sequence of neuroblastoma revealed by molecular analysis on cDNA microarrays" INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ONCOLOGY, vol. 21, 2002, pages 803-807, XP008032825 the whole document	1-7
X	ALAMINOS M ET AL.: "Genome-wide analysis of gene expression associated with MYCN in human neuroblastoma" CANCER RESEARCH, vol. 63, 1 August 2003 (2003-08-01), pages 4538-4546, XP002288620 the whole document	1-7
	-/-	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- *Z* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 December 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

01/02/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Knehr, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/FR2004/050475

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	SARDI I ET AL.: "Molecular profiling of high-risk neuroblastoma by cDNA array" INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE, vol. 9, 2002, pages 541-545, XP008032824 the whole document	1-6
X	DE PRETER KATLEEN ET AL.: "Quantification of MYCN, DDX1, and NAG gene copy number in neuroblastoma using a real-time quantitative PCR assay." MODERN PATHOLOGY : AN OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADIAN ACADEMY OF PATHOLOGY, INC. FEB 2002, vol. 15, no. 2, February 2002 (2002-02), pages 159-166, XP002360059 ISSN: 0893-3952 the whole document	1-5
Y	MORA J ET AL.: "Evolving significance of prognostic markers associated with new treatment strategies in neuroblastomas" CANCER LETTERS, vol. 197, 18 July 2003 (2003-07-18), pages 119-124, XP002288621 * regards spécialement page 122, chapitre 3.1 * the whole document	1-6
Y	DOH-URA K ET AL.: "Identification of differentially expressed genes in scrapie-infected mouse neuroblastoma cells" MICROBIAL PATHOGENESIS, vol. 18, 1995, pages 1-9, XP008013488 abstract page 4, paragraph 1; table 1	1-6
A	TRUCKENMILLER M E ET AL.: "Gene expression in early stage of retinoic acid-induced differentiation of human SH-SY5Y neuroblastoma cells" RESTORATIVE NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSCIENCE, no. 18, 2001, pages 67-80, XP008032823 the whole document	
P,X	HIYAMA E ET AL.: "Expression profiling of favorable and unfavorable neuroblastomas" PEDIATRIC SURGERY INTERNATIONAL, vol. 20, January 2004 (2004-01), pages 33-38, XP002288622 the whole document	1-8

-/-

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/FR2004/050475

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	<p>TAKITA J ET AL.: "Gene expression profiling and identification of novel prognostic marker genes in neuroblastoma" GENES CHROMOSOMES AND CANCER, vol. 40, 2004, pages 120-132, XP008032827 the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	1-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/FR2004/050475

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Continuation of Box II.2

The current claims 1, 4 and 7 to 9 relate to an unlimited number of "...reagents...". However, only a very small number of these "... reagents..." are supported in accordance with PCT Article 6 and/or disclosed in accordance with PCT Article 5, namely nucleic acid sequences as defined on page 8, lines 4 to 10 and in claim 4 ("... hybridisation probe ..."), or nucleic acid sequences acting as primers as defined on page 9, lines 24 to 31. It is obvious in the light of the entire description that only such hybridisation probes or such primers can be used in a method as described in claim 1 to determine target gene expression.

The search carried out in respect of claims 1 to 9 has therefore been restricted to those subjects that appear to be supported by the application and to a generalisation of the structural formula thereof, i.e. nucleic acid sequences that are capable of acting as primers or hybridisation probes in a method for determining expression profiles.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (PCT Rule 66.1(e)). The applicant is advised that it is not normally the policy of the EPO in its capacity as International Preliminary Examining Authority to carry out a preliminary examination for subject matter that has not been searched. This applies whether or not the claims were amended after receipt of the search report or in the course of the procedure under PCT Chapter II. The applicant is reminded that if the application proceeds to the regional phase before the EPO an additional search may be carried out in the course of the examination carried out by the EPO (cf. EPO Guidelines, Part C, VI, 8.5) on the condition that the problems which led to the declaration under PCT Article 17(2) have been resolved.